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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for I-5: Aurora-Donald Interchange Improvement Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is Oregon Department of Transportation and the project is located at Exit 278 on Interstate 5, Aurora, OR 97002.

The funding is designated for reconstructing the Aurora-Donald Interchange as a diverging diamond interchange (DDI). Due to funding limitations, the project is currently planned to be built in two phases. Phase 1 is under design and funded for construction by the Keep Oregon Moving Act (HB 2017). Phase 1 will replace the bridge structure, upgrade the off ramps, add traffic signals at the ramp intersections, and other improvements to improve safety. Funding from the reauthorization earmark would allow design and construction of the Phase 2 improvements to complete the DDI.

Phase 2 activities include, lengthening, widening, and signaling northbound and southbound on-ramps, realigning Ehlen Rd with a wider cross section under the interstate including new signalized intersections, construct a new Ehlen Rd/Bents Rd intersection, and realign Dolores Way with a new intersection farther east when it connects with Ehlen Rd.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits because the Aurora-Donald Interchange is undersized and no longer able to accommodate current truck and auto volumes without backing traffic onto I-5 and interfering with adjacent businesses, including high volume truck stops. It will reduce a major source of congestion in a critical point of travel along the West Coast.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Kurt Schrader  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
April 26, 2021